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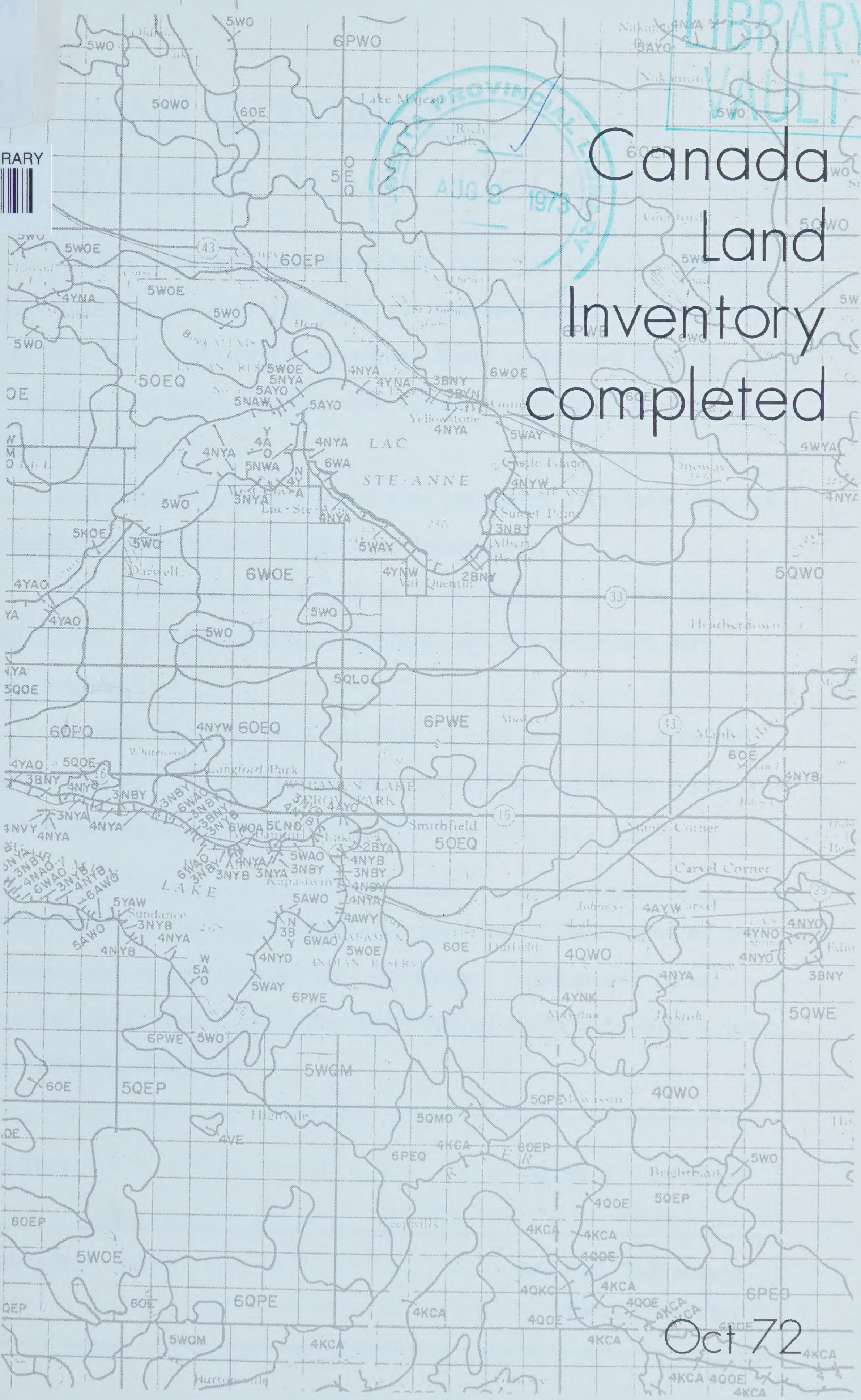
Canada Land Inventory completed



Oct 72

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FOR DRINK CONTAINERS

Consumers favor depots

Alberta consumers overwhelmingly favor the establishment of universal depots which will take back all beverage containers, while at the same time having the option of taking their containers back to retail stores, a survey conducted this summer by the Department of the Environment reveals.

A majority of retailers and many consumers also favor the use of a standard bottle by soft drink manufacturers.

The survey was carried out by 15 university students in five Alberta cities. A total of 2031 households and 649 retailers were asked to respond.

Results show that 88.8 per cent of consumers think a refund system is necessary for soft drink cans and bottles, while 90.7 per cent think it should be expanded to liquor and wine bottles.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS is published monthly by the Alberta Department of the Environment, and is distributed free of charge. Address all correspondence to: Environment News, 7th Floor Milner Building, 10040 - 104th Street, EDMONTON, Alberta.

October 1972 VOLUME 2 NUMBER 7

Honourable W.J. Yurko
Minister

Dr. E.E. Ballantyne
Deputy Minister

Asked whether they would like to see a deposit-refund system on other items, 57.3 per cent said yes for food cans and jars; 59 per cent said yes for paper products, and 69 per cent favored such a system for automobiles.

The establishment of universal container depots was favored by 86.2 per cent of consumers. At the same time, asked where they would prefer to return empty containers, 53.7 per cent said to the retail store that sells that container, and 37.7 per cent said to a central depot.

Asked if they would return more beverage containers if the refund was higher, 42.7 per cent said no, 25.3 per cent said yes, and 25.2 per cent said perhaps.

An increase in deposit would not affect the purchases of soft drinks for 74 per cent of those surveyed, while 18.6 per cent said they would buy less.

The refillable soft drink bottle is still the most popular container, being bought by 81.1 per cent of those surveyed. Cans are preferred by 7.6 per cent. However, 40 per cent said they prefer a standard bottle, and 28.5 per cent said they would perhaps favor this.

It was agreed by 65.4 per cent that compulsory deposits on containers is helping to reduce litter, while another 24.8 per cent said that perhaps this was so.

The survey of retailers shows that the sale of soft drinks in refillable bottles has been increasing since January 1, 1972, while at the same time the sale of canned soft drinks has decreased.

Asked if they would take back empty containers if they were paid a handling charge, 46.8 per cent of retailers said yes, 12.2 per cent said a limited number, and 37.9 per cent said no. Universal depots were favored by 86.1 per cent of the businesses.

A standard soft drink bottle for all brands was supported by 68.4 per cent of retailers.

Other results of the consumer survey:

- Did you know that under the law you are entitled to a refund on all soft drink bottles and cans? Yes, 90.3 per cent; heard something about it, 3.7 per cent; no, 3.5 per cent.

A new system for the return of beverage containers announced recently by Environment Minister W. J. Yurko takes into consideration many of the opinions expressed by consumers in the survey.

It becomes effective January 1, 1973.

Starting then, all soft drink bottles and cans can be returned to universal depots located throughout the province. These depots will also accept all liquor and wine bottles when these come under the act sometime next year.

All beer containers will continue to be accepted only by Alberta Brewers Agents depots.

As well, all retailers in Alberta will accept for refund all refillable bottles of the type and brand they sell. Retailers are required to prominently display signs in their stores stating depot locations and hours where containers, not accepted by them, may be returned.

Under this system, consumers have a choice of taking all their containers back to one depot, or returning their refillable bottles to the retailer.

- How do you usually dispose of soft drink bottles and cans? Return for refund, 84.5 per cent; put in garbage, 4.2 per cent; give to bottle drives, 5.4 per cent.
- Do you feel that the present system (which became effective January 1, 1972) for refunding containers is adequate? Yes, 55 per cent; no, 37.6 per cent.
- If you had to go to a depot, what would be the maximum distance you would travel? Less than one-half mile, 19 per cent; one-half to one mile, 26.8 per cent; one to two miles, 18.5 per cent; two to three miles, 17 per cent; more than three miles, 8.3 per cent.
- How many containers do you collect before you return them? Six or less, 9.5 per cent; six to 12, 24.6 per cent; 12 to 24, 23.1 per cent; 24 to 48, 21.7 per cent; more than 48, 12.4 per cent.
- Have you had difficulty in obtaining a cash refund on empty containers? Yes, 25.1 per cent; no, 66.1 per cent.
- Would public education be effective in reducing litter? Yes, 53.6 per cent; perhaps, 31.1 per cent; no, 14.5 per cent.
- Would stiffer fines for littering be effective in reducing litter? Yes, 43.9 per cent; perhaps, 31.9 per cent; no, 23.5 per cent.
- Would higher refunds on beverage containers be effective in reducing litter? Yes, 34.1 per cent; perhaps, 36.4 per cent; no, 28.7 per cent.
- Would you be willing to separate your household garbage into paper, glass, metal and wet garbage containers? Yes, 60.2 per cent; perhaps, 25.5 per cent; no, 14 per cent.

- Would you be willing to take all or some of the separated portions to a nearby salvage depot? Yes, 33 per cent; perhaps, 33.8 per cent; no, 32.5 per cent.

LETTERS

Dear Sir:

The 23rd Annual Canadian Chemical Engineering Conference, sponsored for this occasion jointly by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and The Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering, will be held in Vancouver in September 1973. One of the sessions will be entitled "The Social Responsibility of Engineers." The purpose of this letter is to solicit papers for presentation at this session from all interested persons, whether engineers or not.

Papers submitted should be short, requiring for oral delivery about 10 minutes. We will select a maximum of four from among those received by March 1, 1973.

Yours sincerely,

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CANADIAN ENVIRONMENT WEEK

Environment Week was observed across Canada October 8-14. To mark the start of this week in Alberta, a tree planting ceremony was held at the Legislative Grounds in Edmonton (above). Wielding the shovels are Premier Peter Lougheed, left, and Environment Minister W.J. Yurko, right, while Judy Wish of the Press Secretary's office provides the steady hand on the amur cherry tree.

Air and noise pollution monitoring trailers were opened to the public in Calgary and Edmonton (top right.) Gurdon Peck of the Division of Pollution Control checks the instruments in the air monitoring trailer (right).

AIR MONITORING LABORATORY
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Land inventory completed for Alberta

The Canada Land Inventory program has been completed for the province of Alberta. The Canada Land Inventory is a comprehensive survey of land capability and use, designed to provide a basis for resource and land use planning at the regional, provincial and national levels.

The inventory covers the settled portions of rural Canada, and within the settled portions of rural Alberta, the inventory includes assessment of how suitable the land is for agriculture, forestry, recreation, wildlife, sport fish, and present land use.

Undertaken as a federal-provincial program under the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act (ARDA), the inventory has been federally financed since 1963. It was operated by the Soils Division of the Research Council of Alberta; the Soil Science Department of the University of Alberta; the Soil Survey of Agriculture Canada; the Alberta Forest Service, the Provincial Parks Division and Fish and Wildlife Division of the Department of Lands and Forests; the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada, and the Geography Department of the University of Alberta. The program was coordinated by the Interdepartmental Planning Division of the Alberta Department of the Environment, through the interdepartmental Conservation and Utilization Committee.

The objectives of the Canada Land Inventory were to classify lands according to their capabilities; to obtain a firm estimate of the extent and location of each land class; and to encourage use of Canada Land Inventory data in planning.

Competition for land for many different uses, and increasing government economic and social planning in rural areas, made it necessary to have improved knowledge of the location, extent and productivity of Canada's lands.

Accurate assessment was possible in Canada because much of the fundamental work had been done in classifying and mapping soils, gathering climatic data, studying present uses, and compiling statistics on productive capacity.

With the aid of this information, scientists in agriculture, forestry, recreation, and wildlife were able to determine what the land is capable of producing.

The Canada Land Inventory was designed primarily for large-scale land use planning. It does not provide the detailed information required for management of individual parcels of land, or land planning in small watersheds or local government units.

The agricultural land inventory provides information in the form of maps and statistical tables on the location, quality, and extent of land suitable for many types of agricultural production. The information is particularly useful to help identify agricultural and sub-marginal farm land, to consolidate farms into viable units, to establish an equitable assessment base and to indicate where urban and industrial expansion would take place without unduly reducing agricultural production.

In the classification, the mineral soils are grouped into seven classes depending on the degree of limitation and into thirteen subclasses, according to the kinds of limitations. Organic soils are not included in the classification but are shown separately on the maps.

The classification of land for forestry was developed to provide and improve the technical basis for land use planning. The classification indicates the land on which intensive management practices might be justified. Since forest management is of a long term nature, dedication of land to this use should be undertaken only after the careful consideration of alternative uses.

The objectives of the recreational land classification program were to provide a reliable estimate of the quality, quantity, type and distribution of all possible outdoor recreation facilities within settled parts of Canada.

The information is being used in outdoor recreation planning for the identification of potential park and recreational areas ranging from intensive day use sites for urban populations to national parks.

The recreation study has also conducted an inventory of present outdoor recreation facilities, which, together with the total inventory, and demand studies, should give a more complete picture necessary for the formulation of policies and programs.

The classification developed for wildlife reflects the physical characteristics of land units as well as meterological and other factors which influence wildlife. The classification includes seven categories of capability, ranging from very good to very poor.

The sport fish capability inventory, because it deals only with the aquatic environment, relies heavily on the physical and chemical factors of the environment rather than on land form. It defines the basic productivity of the water, which can then be expressed in terms of productivity of a wide variety of fish species.

The mapping of present uses of land made use of Canada census data, aerial photography interpretation and other sources of information. The present land use data will not be published in map form.

Some Canada Land Inventory maps are completed and may be purchased by mail at 50 cents each from Information Canada, Ottawa or from the Technical Division of the Department of Lands and Forests, Edmonton. Others are in an advanced stage of production and will be released periodically over the next 18 months. Maps are being printed in a scale of 1:250,000 for general distribution.

Local level to take part in water management

The provincial government will pass on to municipalities some of the responsibility of water management and planning, Environment Minister Bill Yurko stated.

Because of an increasing conflict at the local level over water use and priorities, Mr. Yurko told delegates attending a UNESCO international symposium on snow and ice at Banff, this province recognizes that total management begins at the local level and has determined it needs to transfer some residual power and responsibility to those areas.

Mr. Yurko said provinces have transferred very few of their responsibilities associated with water management resource policies down to a lower level of government, ever since the Natural Resources Transfer Act of 1930 gave provinces the responsibility to manage water resources.

He noted that many older countries had already passed those responsibilities of management to local levels of government and when an adequate distribution of powers between various jurisdictions existed, over-all management on a watershed or river basin concept was considerably enhanced.

"It is of course critical that sufficient responsibility regarding resolution of conflict and sub-planning be provided at the lower level...nevertheless, the extent of this responsibility must not unduly hammer over-all management on the provincial or interprovincial level."

Mr. Yurko said the province is re-structuring existing legislation based on existing systems of a number of American states and several European countries.

BEWARE OF PLANTS

In a recent issue of the Alberta Department of Agriculture publication Agri-Science, B. Casement, the environmental horticulturist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, lists plants in the home and garden with poisonous properties.

Following is the list of plants, and the parts responsible for poisoning:

Caladium, all parts; Calla Lily, all parts; Castor Bean, beans; Diefenbachia, all parts; Jerusalem Cherry, all parts; Oleander, all parts; Philodendron, all parts; Rhubarb, leaves; Yew, wood, bark, leaves, seeds; Bird of Paradise, seed pods; Burning Bush, fruit and leaves; Buttercups, all parts; Horsechestnut, seeds; Potatoes, sprouts and green tubers; Chrysanthemums, all parts; Larkspur, all parts; Daffodil, bulbs; Daphne, all parts; Monkshood, all, especially roots and seeds; Elderberry, leaves, shoots, bark and roots; Holly, berries; Hydrangea, all parts; Iris, roots; Lily-of-the-Valley, all parts; Lupins, all, especially seeds; Mistletoe, all, especially berries; Poinsettia, leaves, stem and sap; Primrose, stems and leaves; Sweet Peas, all, especially seed.

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